

incredible life of Elizabeth Taylor, a true Hollywood movie star, a dedicated social activist, and a legendary figure in American history.

Elizabeth Taylor was born on February 27, 1932, in Hampstead, London, England, to Americans Francis Lenn Taylor and Sara Viola Warmbrodt. In a career that spanned 70 years, Elizabeth Taylor remarkably appeared in over 50 films. However, it was her philanthropy and dedication to her fellow humankind that have earned my deepest gratitude.

Many will remember Elizabeth Taylor for her film career, with overwhelming hits such as "National Velvet," which catapulted her to stardom and solidified her as Hollywood's newest star. I personally recall this film as one of my childhood treasures, and it remains a classic to this day. Ms. Taylor was a pioneer for women, in film and in society. When she signed a \$1 million contract for the film "Cleopatra," it boldly declared her status to Hollywood and the world. She also expanded her body of work to include Broadway, where she debuted in the revival of Lillian Hellman's 1939 play "The Little Foxes" and returned in the revival of Noël Coward's 1930 comedy "Private Lives."

Though Elizabeth Taylor earned her household name through her accomplishments in the film industry, it was her charitable work to combat AIDS that was truly outstanding. Never one to shy away from opposition or controversy, Ms. Taylor wholeheartedly fundraised, supported, and raised awareness for AIDS. Her ability to mobilize a new audience was remarkable. In addition to fundraising and contributing millions of dollars to addressing AIDS, Ms. Taylor was a principal founder in the American Foundation for AIDS Research, amfAR, and the Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation.

Elizabeth Taylor received many accolades throughout her career, including her appointment as a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire for her illustrious film career and humanitarian work. Ms. Taylor received two Academy Awards for best actress for her performances in "Butterfield 8" and "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf." Later, she was inducted into the California Hall of Fame at the California Museum for History, Women, and the Arts, by former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. While these honors are notable, it was Ms. Taylor's intangible qualities of perseverance, altruism, and grace that were even more remarkable.

Beyond her film career and role as an activist, Elizabeth Taylor was an individual with an entrepreneurial spirit. She authored a self-help book, designed jewelry for The Elizabeth Collection by Piranesi, and created the popular perfumes "Passion," "White Diamonds," and "Black Pearls." As a reflection of herself, Ms. Taylor's ventures always evoked a sense of class, eternal elegance, and beauty.

Please join me in expressing the sympathies of this body to Elizabeth Taylor's family, including her children, Michael Howard and Christopher Edward Wilding, Elizabeth "Liza" Todd, and Maria Burton, 10 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren. I have no doubt she will be so dearly missed by the many friends, family, and countless individuals whose lives she touched. On this day, we celebrate her, her life, her legacy, and her extraordinary contributions to our Nation and the world as a whole.

Elizabeth Taylor will be remembered as a dazzling actress, a friend, a noble philanthropist, and as Hollywood's ultimate leading lady.

REMEMBERING W.R. "WILLIE" JONES

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. W.R. "Willie" Jones, who passed away on Friday, March 25, 2011. Willie was dedicated to providing hope for a better life for underprivileged children in Montgomery, AL, and he was a personal friend. Along with the children and families whose lives Willie helped to change, I mourn his passing.

Willie Jones was born on April 3, 1955, and was an alumnus of Alabama State University. He began his life of dedication to the YMCA by participating in the organization's programs as a youth. Starting in 1968, he worked part time as an aquatic instructor at the Cleveland Avenue YMCA in Montgomery, where he would later become the executive director. His involvement didn't stop there; Willie also served as a senior vice president of the Montgomery YMCA. He held famous father/son banquets that attracted top sports talent to the Cleveland Avenue YMCA and provided inspiration for young boys and their fathers.

I have always recognized the Cleveland Avenue YMCA as an important place for the advancement of underprivileged youth. The facility opened in 1960 in conjunction with Martin Luther King's efforts to obtain equal opportunities for all people, including children. Willie and I worked together to fund and open the Cleveland Avenue Cultural Arts and Education Center, CAEC, in 2000. The CAEC is the largest YMCA facility in the country that is entirely dedicated to the arts. It is a true testament to Willie's commitment to helping America's youth through creative and educational initiatives.

In addition to his work for the YMCA, Willie served as the chairman of the Montgomery County Community Punishment and Corrections Authority and advocated for prison alternatives for nonviolent offenders, another passion of his. He also served on the Montgomery Housing Authority board of directors and the Montgomery County Recreation Commission.

Willie's advocacy extended beyond the boardroom and into city and county meetings, which he regularly at-

tended. He was often spotted around the community networking with nearly everyone he met. Willie was a great friend to me and to all people, young and old. His selfless life's mantra was, "This isn't about Willie Jones, it's about the kids at the YMCA." I am honored to have assisted with obtaining Federal funding for the Cleveland Avenue YMCA and to have known this man who was so committed to his community and to the greater world around him.

Willie is loved and will be missed by his wife Versie and two children, Jeff and Jennifer. My thoughts and prayers are with them as they struggle with Willie's premature and unexpected death. A tireless advocate for underprivileged children and nonviolent offenders, Willie championed the notion of a "second chance" for kids throughout the community and will be fondly remembered for the legacy of service he left behind him.

TRIBUTE TO ALEX HECHT

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor one of my Small Business Committee staff members and trusted advisers, Alex Hecht, as he prepares to depart Capitol Hill for the private sector. Alex joined my office in March 2005—6 years ago—as regulatory counsel for the committee, after serving as a legislative analyst for the National Multi Housing Council. Since then, Alex has taken on a host of issues vital to our Nation's small businesses and has been at the forefront of helping me craft critical legislation to assist these job generators.

As regulatory counsel, Alex helped me develop an agenda to help small businesses fight the onerous regulations they face. And he has continued his work to this day. As has been noted frequently, our current Federal regulatory situation is outrageous. Small firms—our Nation's primary job creators—with fewer than 20 employees bear a disproportionate burden of complying with Federal regulations, paying an annual regulatory cost of \$10,585 per employee, which is 36 percent higher than the regulatory cost facing large firms.

To reduce the burdensome task of complying with excessive Federal regulations, Alex helped me draft an amendment to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform bill that created small business advocacy review panels within the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, or CFPB, through the Regulatory Flexibility Act so that the CFPB fully considers small business economic effects when it promulgates new regulations. Alex also helped me move the Small Business Compliance Assistance Enhancement Act over the finish line in 2007 to ensure that agencies publish small business compliance guides for regulations in plain English and in a timely manner.

Alex was also instrumental in helping me introduce the Small Business

Regulatory Freedom Act of 2011 with Senator COBURN to help ensure that the Federal Government fully considers the small business economic impact of the rules and regulations that agencies promulgate.

Since January 2007, Alex has served as my chief counsel on the committee, overseeing much of its policy work and specializing in a number of issue areas, including health care and small business energy policy, in addition to regulatory reform. Alex was crucial in helping me develop the Small Business Health Options Program Act—or SHOP Act—in both the 110th and 111th Congresses. This bipartisan legislation would have made health insurance more affordable and accessible for small businesses and the self-employed, who represent a majority of our Nation's uninsured.

Alex also helped me craft the Small Business Energy Efficiency Act of 2007, which was signed into law as part of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. This legislation is helping to combat climate change by using Small Business Administration, SBA, resources to assist in the development of energy efficiency projects.

Additionally, Alex has been inextricably linked with our committee's efforts to reauthorize the Small Business Innovation Research, SBIR, and Small Business Technology Transfer, STTR, programs. These critical initiatives foster an environment of innovative entrepreneurship by directing more than \$2 billion annually in Federal research and development, R&D, funding to the Nation's small firms most likely to create jobs and commercialize their products. We are presently debating such legislation on the floor—legislation which represents an unprecedented compromise supported by stakeholders from all sides—and we are closer than we have been in 5 years to getting a bill to the President's desk. This is largely in part to Alex's consistent and dedicated efforts.

As Alex prepares to leave the Senate, I offer him my sincerest gratitude for 6 dedicated years of service to my office and to America's small businesses. In particular, I want to thank him for serving as acting staff director of the committee in late 2006. Over his years on the Hill, Alex has developed a thorough knowledge and passion for Senate procedure and has been key in helping me formulate our committee rules each Congress. His absence will be regrettably notable. I wish him, his wife Amy, and his children, Chance and Marin, all the best as they begin this exciting new chapter.

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL P. MULHOLLAN

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Today I wish to note the retirement of Daniel P. Mulhollan as Director of the Congressional Research Service and to thank him for his service to Congress over the past 42 years. CRS, an institution with

roots going back to 1914, provides essential support for Congress. Dan Mulhollan has been a part of CRS since September 1969; and he has led CRS since January 24, 1994, when Librarian of Congress James Billington named him CRS Director.

As Director, Mulhollan's accomplishments have been impressive. He worked to ensure that the analytical services of CRS are explicitly and clearly pertinent to the legislative, oversight, and representational responsibilities of Congress and to the current congressional agenda. He expanded the ability of CRS to bring interdisciplinary scholarship to bear on matters important to Congress. His efforts to develop and implement a personnel succession plan ensure that professional talent will continue to be available to Congress in the years to come.

Following graduate work in political science at Georgetown University, Mulhollan came to what was then known as the Legislative Reference Service. His first division chief recognized the restless energy of this new analyst in American national government and put him to work on inquiries about the institutional dimensions of Congress. In 1973 Mulhollan was named section head and subsequently served as head of three sections in the CRS Government Division. He and the teams he led worked with committees and Members of Congress on such matters as lobbying disclosure, the Watergate investigation, and subsequent impeachment investigation, congressional reorganization, and congressional ethics. In 1981 Mulhollan became assistant chief of the CRS Government Division, and in that position he managed research for Congress on a wide range of issues, among which were the organization and administration of the executive and legislative branches, legislative process, voting and elections, lobbying, and political parties and processes.

In 1991 Mulhollan received the Library's Distinguished Service Award for his career achievements, and in 1992 James Billington, the Librarian of Congress, appointed Mulhollan as Acting Deputy Librarian of Congress for a period of 2 years and commissioned him to head the Library's effort to enhance its service to Congress. Subsequently, Mulhollan was named chief of the CRS Government Division; and then in 1994, Dr. Billington named Mulhollan to be Director of the Congressional Research Service. In making the appointment, Dr. Billington said, "Daniel Mulhollan brings to this position comprehensive knowledge of Congress, an understanding of its research needs, a strong commitment to diversity, and a record of effective and energetic administration." The Librarian chose well: under Mulhollan's energetic leadership over the past 17 years, CRS has consolidated its analytic abilities and has continually demonstrated its worth to the United States Congress.

I am confident that my Senate colleagues join me in wishing Daniel

Mulhollan well in his retirement, commending his leadership of CRS, and thanking him for a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO EARL HOLDING

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, today I want to give recognition to an individual who has done great things for the ski industry and the State of Idaho. On April 2, Earl Holding will be inducted into the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame. His induction is not because of his exploits on the slopes, although he knows how to carve a turn in the snow, but because of his passion and unmatched effort in developing quality skiing facilities in Idaho, the Western United States, and for his work in bringing the 2002 Winter Olympics to Salt Lake City.

Earl Holding purchased Idaho's ski resort of Sun Valley in 1977. His attention to detail and the experience he brought to the property from owning and managing properties in the hospitality industry, truck stops and oil industry was just what the resort needed. He began a beautification project that restored the grandeur of the property by renovating virtually every square foot of the historic buildings, adding moonlight sleigh rides and world-class ice shows, and planting thousands of new trees.

On the ski runs, he put in the world's largest snowmaking system. Five new high-speed detachable quad lifts were built along with new day lodges and restaurants. With interests in architecture and design, Earl Holding showed his talent for uniting culture and charm as well as inspiring excitement to his resorts and hotels. As such, he personally oversaw the design of the new lodges to maximize their breathtaking mountain views.

Sun Valley was once again a pre-eminent resort that brought skiers and tourists from around the world. In 2009, the Sun Valley Nordic Center hosted the International Special Olympics. It was also the training site for numerous international teams as they prepared for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City.

Earl Holding, along with his wife Carol, has restored the charm and grandeur that was Sun Valley shortly after its founding by Averell Harriman in 1936. Skiers, winter sports enthusiasts and the entire ski industry have benefitted from the Holding family's passion for developing a first-class and highly acclaimed ski resort at Sun Valley and elsewhere.

His work has also made the State of Idaho a destination location for skiers, golfers and other outdoor enthusiasts as he developed Sun Valley into a five-star, year-round resort. The enormous draw the name "Sun Valley" has in the highly competitive international tourism trade is beyond anything the state could do to attract more tourists.

It is indeed a great honor for me to congratulate Earl Holding for his vision, passion and perseverance in making Sun Valley a world-class resort,